

I.O. 6696

## Shanghai Municipal Police.

6696

Date 20.10.28

Intelligence Office

Station.

October

19

1925

**REPORT ON Bolshevist Propaganda Among Sailors With Special Reference  
to Efforts to Undermine Loyalty of Members of British Fleet**

Made by D. S. Koroelkoff

Forwarded by

Theriers C. D. I.

Sir,

Certain circumstantial evidence has been collected by these Headquarters which tends to prove that propaganda, inciting Chinese and foreign seamen to declare strikes and in general to revolt, is being conducted by Bolsheviks in Shanghai. A branch of the Russian "Agitotdel" (translated means "Propaganda Department") is said to exist at the Soviet Consulate and at the present moment is being directed by Solomon Lazovitch Ville - a Russian Jew, who, in addition, occupies the position of Acting Soviet Consul-General and is assisted by Soviet Consular Secretary, Abraham Hassis, also a Russian Jew.

According to unconfirmed information in possession of these Headquarters, the "Agitotdel" employs numerous agents of whom the most important is Golyanovsky who possesses a knowledge of both the English and Chinese languages. It is said that Golyanovsky on some occasions during the recent strike was in communication with Chinese strike organizations and agitators. He is a journalist by occupation, representing the Soviet newspapers "Echo", "Sovietski Sibir" and "Ogonyok" in Russia. Another important agent of the "Agitotdel" is Peter Solomonovitch Strijevsky, a Russian Jew, who likewise is reported to have been an active agitator behind the scenes in the recent strike. Strijevsky is employed as a clerk in the Consular Office of the Russian

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Volunteer Fleet. He speaks English and is known to have visited the (Thomas) Harbury Sailors Home in Broadway in the first week of June of the present year.

The work of disseminating Bolshevik propaganda among seamen was conducted up till spring of the present year by Vladimir Nikolaiévitch Cherkassoff formerly 1st Secretary of the Soviet Consulate and by M. J. Greben, Acting Military Attache of the same institution, both of the East Shanghai. Since then, these Headquarters has not been able to definitely recognize which of the numerous Russian and Chinese agents in the employ of "Agitotdel" is especially entrusted with the work of spreading Bolshevik propaganda among the seamen.

In addition to the foregoing, the following facts, recorded by these Headquarters, conclusively prove how Bolshevik propaganda is being disseminated among Chinese and foreign sailors.

At the celebration held in the building of the Soviet Consulate on the 7th of November 1924 to commemorate the anniversary of the Soviet Republic, several foreigners were among those who attended the ceremony. These men were unemployed sailors from the Thomas Harbury Sailors Home and were invited by the Soviet authorities to attend for which it appears they received payment.

During a search conducted by the Shanghai Municipal Police on the 3rd of July 1925, in the premises of the Chinese Seamen's Union copies of International Bolshevik literature in English and German languages also leaflets printed

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in English entitled "The Chinese Seamen" which latter is undoubtedly the work of Russian Canton Bolsheviks, were seized.

On the 6th of August 1925, small red notices printed in both English and Chinese languages were posted throughout the Settlement on telegraph poles. These notices were issued by the Young Communists' League of China and had as their object the undermining of the loyalty of British sailors by appealing to them to refuse being the tools of Imperialist financiers. Similar notices, issued in both the French and Chinese languages by the National Federation of Young Communists, appealed to the French sailors for a world revolution and the establishment of the Seamen's Soviet, were found posted throughout the French Concession on the same day. ~~These two notices are the work of local Russian Bolsheviks.~~

From information received from the Shanghai River Police the S. M. P. learned that a foreign agitator had been observed on board the motor ship "Canton" on the 9th of August of this year attempting to incite the Swedish crew of the aforesaid ship to come out on strike in sympathy with the Shanghai strikers. He also distributed the Bolshevik leaflets entitled "The Red Seamen of Asia" to the sailors of said ship.

In September of the present year an unknown German agitator made his appearance at the General Hospital at Shanghai and requested to see some three German patients - inmates of the hospital. On being admitted he distributed sundry communist

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literature in the German language to them. One of these German patients who is an employee of the "Hamburg America Linie" voluntarily communicated this information to the administration of his company and subsequently to the Police and stated that he did not know the mysterious visitor, but that he is known to the Social Workers as the person often visiting German ships in harbour for the purpose of distributing reading matter of a communistic nature.

Referring to the case of the two deserters from H.M.S. "Carleton", who were arrested by the Shanghai Municipal Police and handed over to the British Naval Authorities, these Headquarters consider it possible that, while the Police have no definite evidence to prove it, the desertion took place under the influence of Bolshevik agitators - male and female.

*This information is desired  
by Lt. Comd. Franks H.M.S. Hawkins  
He wishes it marked secret and  
sent to him at Hong Kong  
Commander Glinchuk  
Royal Naval Base  
Straits Settlements*

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

B. Horodkoff

D. S. 31.

15 20  
D. C. I.

*Done  
19/10  
Cik*

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SECRET.  
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October 19,

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Lt. Comdr. I. B. Franks,

H.M.S. "Hawkins,"

HONGKONG.

My dear Franks,

with reference to your call  
here on Saturday, I forward herewith copy  
of a Police report which may be of use to  
you.

Yours sincerely,

*Franks*